Delay in clearing list of goods for import and export

†26. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kelker Committee had accepted the delay in clearing the list of goods for import and export;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken so far to overcome this delay;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the average period of delay assessed by the above Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee has observed that clearance time at Indian ports/airports is still far from the best international practices.

(b) to (d) Various measures have been taken to reduce the transaction cost and time in imports and exports in recent past which include expansion of EDI system to new locations other than 23 major ports/airports. A self-assessment scheme called the 'Accelerated Clearance of Import and Export Scheme (ACS)' for selected items/ importer has been introduced at Sahar Airport, ICD, Tughlakabad and Chennai sea Customs on trial basis. The Committee has not given any finding of specific time period of delay in its report.

Export growth

27. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) as Government have estimated 12 per cent growth, which in Rupee terms comes to Rs. 2,73,636 crores in 2003-04 as compared to Rupees 2,50,130 crores in 2002-03, what are the export earning in Rupee terms in the first quarter (1st April to 30th June, 2003);

(b) the steps being taken to achieve this target; and

(c) whether any fortnightly monitoring mechanism has been evolved?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) An export growth target of 12% in dollar terms has been fixed for 2003-04. In Rupee terms (at current exchange rates) it amounts to around Rs. 270480 crores as compared to Rs. 250130.02 crores in 2002-03. Provisional data on India's exports from Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) is available only for the period April-May, 2003-04. In rupee terms, the exports were Rs. 41858.94 crores during April-May, 2003-04.

(b) and (c) Based on the strategies contained in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07, announced in January, 2002, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched through the Union Budget, 2003-04 and Exim Policy, 2003-04. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04, besides the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's), etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Duty Neutralization Schemes for import of inputs used for export production have been strengthened. Export Promotion being a constant endeavor of the Government, export performance is continuously monitored on a regular basis and the export growth rate during April-May, 2003-04 is 11.12% in dollar terms against the target of 12% for the whole year.

Industrial growth

28. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that industrial growth continued to remain robust in the last two quarters ending June, 2003 with the index of industrial production registering a marginal growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

c) whether the new growth drive could not emerge as the investment demand begins to pick up reacting to the restoration of demand supply in balances in several sectors; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the rate of industrial growth in the next two quarters?